
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCLUDE RESIDENT CITIZENS
OF THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES AS "QUALIFIED ALIENS" UNDER
THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY
RECONCILIATION ACT IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR UNIQUE HISTORIC
AND ONGOING SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA.

1 WHEREAS, the Freely Associated States of Palau, the
2 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of
3 Micronesia comprise a multitude of islands, languages, and
4 cultures throughout the Micronesian region of the Pacific Ocean;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, the Freely Associated States were former Trust
8 Territories of the United States and, as sovereign nations,
9 continue to place their trust in the United States through the
10 Compacts of Free Association; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Compacts of Free Association between the
13 Freely Associated States and the United States of America
14 recognize the historic sacrifices and contributions of the
15 citizens of the Freely Associated States to the interests of the
16 United States, including the use of their island atolls for
17 sixty-seven nuclear tests from 1946 to 1958, the subjecting of
18 Marshallese people to human radiation experiments without their
19 knowledge or their consent, and the United States military's
20 occupation of their islands to ensure United States control of
21 the Pacific; and
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23 WHEREAS, under the Compacts of Free Association, the United
24 States continues to exercise exclusive military jurisdiction
25 over the lands and waters of the Freely Associated States and
26 continues to use their sovereign territory for military weapons
27 testing, including the use of their atolls as part of the United



1 States National Missile Defense Program's long-range
2 intercontinental ballistic missile defense system; and
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4 WHEREAS, for decades, the United States has failed to
5 establish economic independence within the Freely Associated
6 States, leading to a lack of adequate agricultural, educational,
7 and health infrastructure necessary for a self-sufficient
8 society; and
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10 WHEREAS, in addition to these sacrifices, the sons and
11 daughters of the citizens of the Freely Associated States
12 continue to lay down their lives in the interests of the United
13 States, representing some of the highest per-capita military
14 recruitment levels to the United States military compared to any
15 other jurisdiction, including each of the fifty states of the
16 United States; and
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18 WHEREAS, the people of the Freely Associated States have
19 also contributed greatly to Hawaii's understanding of the common
20 cultural heritage and pride of all Pacific Islanders, such as
21 through the traditional ocean navigation techniques kept alive
22 and rejuvenated by the late "Papa" Mau Piailug; and
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24 WHEREAS, despite the limited right to travel, reside, work,
25 seek educational opportunity, and seek medical treatment in the
26 United States, citizens of the Freely Associated States who find
27 themselves in the United States continue to encounter
28 substantial and varied forms of discrimination, including
29 cultural, economic, linguistic, and social barriers; and
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31 WHEREAS, one of the most egregious examples of such
32 discrimination is the treatment of citizens of the Freely
33 Associated States present in the United States under the
34 Compacts of Free Association as a result of the federal Personal
35 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,
36 which removed their previous eligibility for numerous federal
37 benefits, including Medicaid, Social Security, food stamps,
38 housing, and other social safety nets that all citizens and most
39 resident legal immigrants enjoy; and
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41 WHEREAS, this discrepancy has resulted in harsh and
42 disparate treatment of a significant number of Hawaii's resident
43 citizens of the Freely Associated States, including the denial



1 of medical access leading to adverse health consequences and
2 even death; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
6 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that Congress is
7 strongly urged to include resident citizens of the Freely
8 Associated States as "qualified aliens" and restore their
9 eligibility under the Personal Responsibility and Work
10 Opportunity Reconciliation Act, in recognition of their historic
11 and ongoing sacrifices and contributions to the United States
12 unique to almost any other jurisdiction in the world; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; the
16 President of the United States; the members of Hawaii's
17 congressional delegation; the Speaker of the United States House
18 of Representatives; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the
19 United States House of Representatives; the Chairs of the United
20 States House of Representatives Committees on Armed Services,
21 Budget, Homeland Security, Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs;
22 the President of the United States Senate; the Majority and
23 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate; and the Chairs of
24 the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, Budget,
25 Finance, and Foreign Relations, Health, Education, Labor, and
26 Pensions.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2013

